

United Nations at Geneva Staff Union
Languages Service Sectoral Assembly 2021-2022
Report on the activities of the President

1. Participation in the elections for President, which were the first ever to be held online, increased significantly compared to the previous elections held in 2019. I hope it will increase still further for the next elections.

2. I convened 11 meetings of the LSSA Bureau.

Activities of the President other than those of the LSSA Bureau

3. The unique “grassroots” level institution of sectoral assembly, which does not exist in other duty stations and does not have the same level of organization in other services in Geneva, really showed its worth by helping me in global coordination with other staff representatives. During the year, I spent a lot of time contributing to and maintaining an informal group of language service staff representatives and staff focal points from the four duty stations. I was able to represent Geneva at the coordination meetings backed up by input from Bureau meetings and it was noticeable that the other representatives did not benefit from such a forum.

4. I moderated the two global townhall meetings for languages service staff held during the term.

5. I attended two meetings of the Staff-Management Relations Group, which is an opportunity to raise issues of interest to staff with the Director of DCM and is also attended by HR representatives and other staff representatives from DCM and the Union leadership. On both occasions, a communication summarizing the meeting was sent out to all DCM staff.

6. As a member of the Executive Bureau of the Union, I was able to raise individual and collective issues directly with the leadership.

7. I reported on issues faced by the Languages Service at most of the monthly meetings of the Staff Union Council.

8. I spoke at one of the DCM townhalls organized by the Director.

9. I attended very occasional meetings of the Chiefs of the Languages Service. Generally, I was invited when another external person was due to deliver a presentation.

10. With the Executive Secretary of the Union, I attended a special meeting of the Chiefs, at which they presented their responses to suggestions made by staff members. Those replies were communicated to all LS staff.

11. I aimed to communicate with all LS staff by email approximately once a month, to share minutes of meetings and other relevant documents and to keep my communications brief and focused.